

FDD-PST

From: Barbara Braziel [braziel@monroe.k12.ga.us]
Sent: Friday, April 28, 2000 3:26 PM
To: fdd-pst@fns.usda.gov
Subject: Food Distribution 2000

Dear USDA Consultant:

As a school nutrition director involved with the utilization of USDA products on a daily basis, I wish to make the following comments on Food Distribution 2000. Please tabulate, categorize by the 16 improvement actions, and publish for nationwide access.

1. Expand the use of long-term contracts. I feel that this concept would not be in the best interests of SFAS.
2. Test Best-Value Contracting. I feel that this concept would not be in the best interests of SFAS.
3. Update Product Specifications. Conforming to industry pack size would be a plus, but otherwise, details of the changes to update each product specification are needed.
4. Allow Vendors to Use Commercial Labels. I feel that this concept would be confusing, and not in the best interests of SFAS.
5. Move Toward National Umbrella Contracts with Processors. I feel that this concept would be in the best interests of SFAS.
6. Expand Full Substitutability of Commodity Product. I feel that this concept is definitely not acceptable to SFAS.
7. Work With States to Test the Seamless Commodity Distribution Concept. I feel that there are still too many unknowns to be able to comment, at this time.
8. Facilitate the Processing of Commodities with Limited Demand. I feel that this concept would be in the best interests of SFAS. Consideration should be given also to utilizing some of these items in other programs such as needy family distributions.
9. Develop Written Hold and Recall Procedures. I feel that this concept would be in the best interests of SFAS.
10. Reduce the Duration of Product Holds at the School Level. I feel that this concept would be in the best interests of SFAS.
11. Publish Commodity Recall Reimbursement Procedures. I feel that this concept would be in the best interests of SFAS.
12. Provide Computer Connectivity to the School District Level. If USDA should provide computer connectivity to each SFA nationwide, who will handle the training and trouble-shooting?
13. Provide a Single USDA Point of Contact. I am unsure of the meaning

of
this concept.

14. Work With States and Partners to Pilot-Test Improvements. Who determines the topics, and how were certain school districts selected? Who will evaluate the pilots, and will their results be published?

15. Other Improvements: Facilitate the Use of 4/11 Funds for Commodity Purchases; Encourage Cooperatives; and Relax Truckload Requirements.

I have three comments: Relaxing truckload requirements is an excellent idea;

Using Section 4 and 11 funds for additional commodity purchases from USDA shifts procurement from the local level, and is therefore not a good idea; cooperative purchasing applies to all SFA purchasing, not just to USDA foods.

16. Streamline Paperwork and Reporting Requirements. This concept is questionable.